

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Autoimmune; inflammation; multiple sclerosis (MS)	γ -Aminobutyric acid receptor (GABAR)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that activating GABARs could help treat inflammation in autoimmune diseases such as MS. In a mouse model of experimental autoimmune encephalitis (EAE), Topamax topiramate and Sabril vigabatrin, as compared with vehicle, reduced both disease severity and production of proinflammatory cytokines by immune cells ($p < 0.05$ for both). Next steps include determining the anti-inflammatory effects of GABAR agonists in purified human immune cells.</p> <p>Johnson & Johnson's Topamax, a sulfamate-substituted monosaccharide that acts as a sodium channel blocker, a GABAR agonist and an AMPAR antagonist, is marketed to treat epilepsy, seizures and migraines.</p> <p>Sabril, an irreversible inhibitor of GABA-transaminase from sanofi-aventis Group and H. Lundbeck A/S, is marketed to treat seizures and epilepsy.</p>	Currently unpatented; licensing enquiries should be directed to Stanford University's Office of Technology Licensing	<p>Bhat, R. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 1, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0915139107</p> <p>Contact: Richard W. Tsien, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: rwtsien@stanford.edu</p> <p>Contact: Roopa Bhat, same affiliation as above e-mail: roopa.bhat@stanford.edu</p>
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